Agreement with Norwegian Company on Seismic Survey

407. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have entered into an agreement with PGS Ocean Botom Seismic, Norwegian Company for a dimensional ocean bottom cable technique seismic survey over Mumbai High;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the project is proposed to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. has awarded a contract to M/s. PGS OBS, Norway on 20.6.1997 for 3D acquisition, processing and interpretation work in the Mumbai High at a value of US$ 49.73 million.

(c) The project is to be completed by 31.10.98.

Joint Venture for Neelam Oilfield

408. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to form a joint venture for the Neelam Oil field;

(b) if so, whether ONGC officers have expressed strong reservations over this decision;

(c) the grounds on which they have opposed the decision; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (d) No decision has been taken in this regard.

(b) and (c) Officers Association of ONGC during a meeting with management have shown their reservation/resentment on the apprehended move to hand over Neelam field to JVC on the following grounds:

(i) Neelam field has already been identified and taken by management as pilot project as part of transformation by M/s Mckinsey and Company.

(ii) Association should be taken into confidence before handing over Neelam Field.

(iii) In the past while handing over proven fields like Panna, Mukta, Ravva ONGC was deprived from getting the reimbursement of past cost for such fields, which was incurred by ONGC towards exploration, delineation and development.

(iv) Estimation of reserves, is a dynamic process and estimates worked out cannot be changed on daily basis. The online simulation is meant for monitoring the performance of the producing assets and thus the simultaneous results should be taken as early warning to provide timely corrective measures for non-optimised production. Such results of simulation/ production, if highlighted as periodically as now done, would lead only to wrong signals to outsiders.

(v) The reason given time and again, that the discovered fields are being handed over to the JVC for maximising ultimate recovery by using innovative techniques, but no so called innovative techniques have been used, in any of the fields which are under JVC's in reality.

Supply of Underweight Gas Cylinders

409. SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of

the underweight Gas cylinders, with loose seals, being distributed by Surjeet Fuel Depot, R.K. Puram, Arjun Enterprises and Nippro Gas Agency, Munirka and Sagar Enterprises, Gole Market, New Delhi;

(b) whether it is a fact that such cylinders are being supplied by IOC (Indane) as per the statement made by the said dealers to enquiring public;

(c) if so, the reasons therefore and the steps being taken in this regard; and

(d) if answer to part (b) above be in the negative, the action being initiated against these dealers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) During 1996-97 and April—Oct., 97, IOC Marketing Division has not received any complaints that could be established regarding underweight cylinders or cylinders with improper seals against M/s Surjeet Fuel Depot, M/s Arjun Enterprises, M/s Nippro Gas Agency and M/s Sagar Enterprises.

(b) to (d) According to enquiry made by IOC, the LPG distributors of IOC have not made any such statement to enquiring Public. Further, underweight Cylinders and Cylinders without proper seals if found during pre delivery checks, are returned to the supply points/Bottling Plants as per the existing procedure.

Fault repair service by LPG Companies

410. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an emergency fault repair service has been provided by the LPG companies in each and every part of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware that the LPG agencies appointed for the purpose are charging visiting charges from the customers for the leakage complaints;

(d) if so, the details in this regard; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken against such agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) At present 658 Emergency Service Cells are being operated in the country by Public Sector Oil Companies.

(b) A statement showing the State-wise position in annexed (see below).

(c) No complaints have been received from the customers regarding charging of visiting charges by the operators of LPG Emergency Service Cells.

(d) and (e) Not applicable in view of answer to (c) above.

Statement

S. No.	State/UT	No. of Emergency Service Cells (As on 1.10.97)
1.	Chandigarh	2
2.	Delhi	5
3.	Haryana	15
4.	Himachal Pradesh	2
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	4
6.	Punjab	25
7.	Rajasthan	41
8.	Uttar Pradesh	121
9.	Andaman & Nicobar	1
10.	Arunachal Pradesh	1
11.	Assam	13
12.	Bihar	38
13.	Manipur	—
14.	Meghalaya	1
15.	Mizoram	—
16.	Nagaland	—
17.	Orissa	19
18.	Sikkim	—
19.	Tripura	1
20.	West Bengal	40
21.	Dadra & N.H.	—
22.	Daman & Diu	—
23.	Goa	5
24.	Gujarat	19